# LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS M. CREECH, JR.

124 EDINBURGH COURT SUITE 109 29607

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GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

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December 2, 2016

Russell W. Harter, Jr. Chapman, Harter, Harter, P.A. P.O. Box 10224 Greenville, SC 29603

RE: Andrew G. Turner vs. Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office, Laurens County Fire Service, & Lt. Jawarski Shelton, Individually Case No.: 2016-CP-30-892

Dear Mr. Harter:

Enclosed please find the Amended Summons and Complaint in reference to the above captioned case and certificate of service. Also, enclosed please find the Acceptance of Service in reference to the above captioned case and return to us in the self addressed stamped envelope provided.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very Truly Yours,

LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS M. CREECH, JR., LLC

Celeste Thomason

Paralegal to Thomas M. Creech, Jr.

C. leste. Thomason

ctparalegalcreech@gmail.com

/cft

Enclosures

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  8th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF LAURENS	)	
Andrew G. Turner,	)	Case No. 2016-CP-30-892
Plaintiff,	)	
Vs.	)	
	)	
Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens	)	
County, Laurens County Sheriff's	)	
Office, Laurens County Fire	)	
Service, & Lt. Jawarski Shelton,	)	
individually,	)	
Defendants.		

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned employee of the LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS M. CREECH, LLC  $2^{nd}$  day of December, 2016 a copy of the foregoing Amended Summons and Complaint, in connection with the above-referenced case by mailing a copy of the same by United States Mail to the following address:

Russell W. Harter, Jr. Chapman, Harter, Harter, P.A. P.O. Box 10224 Greenville, SC 29603

Celeste Thomason

Paralegal for Thomas M. Creech, Jr.

Greenville, South Carolina December 2, 2016

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	) I	N THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS 8 <sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT					
COUNTY OF LAURENS	)						
Andrew G. Turner,	)	Case No.: 2016-CP-30-892					
Plaintiff, Vs.  Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's	)	ACCEPTANCE OF SERVICE					
Office, Laurens County Fire Service, & Lt. Jawarski Shelton, individually, Defendants.	) ) )						
I, Russell W. Harter, Jr., as attorney for the defendants, Ricky Chastain Sheriff of							
Laurens County, Laurens County Fire Service, and Lt. Jawarski Shelton, Individually, do certify							
on this date that I received and accept service of the enclosed documents.							
Civil Action Cover She	et						
Amended Summons							
Amended Complaint							
Russell W. Harter, Jr.		Date					
Chapman, Harter, Harter, P.A. P.O. Box 10224							

Greenville, SC 29603

SCCA / 234 (03/2016)

Page 1 of 2

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**Note:** Frivolous civil proceedings may be subject to sanctions pursuant to SCRCP, Rule 11, and the South Carolina Frivolous Civil Proceedings Sanctions Act, S.C. Code Ann. §15-36-10 et. seq.

Effective January 1, 2016, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is mandatory in all counties, pursuant to Supreme Court Order dated November 12, 2015.

SUPREME COURT RULES REQUIRE THE SUBMISSION OF ALL CIVIL CASES TO AN ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS, UNLESS OTHERWISE EXEMPT.

#### Pursuant to the ADR Rules, you are required to take the following action(s):

- 1. The parties shall select a neutral and file a "Proof of ADR" form on or by the 210<sup>th</sup> day of the filing of this action. If the parties have not selected a neutral within 210 days, the Clerk of Court shall then appoint a primary and secondary mediator from the current roster on a rotating basis from among those mediators agreeing to accept cases in the county in which the action has been filed.
- 2. The initial ADR conference must be held within 300 days after the filing of the action.
- 3. Pre-suit medical malpractice mediations required by S.C. Code §15-79-125 shall be held not later than 120 days after all defendants are served with the "Notice of Intent to File Suit" or as the court directs.
- 4. Cases are exempt from ADR only upon the following grounds:
  - a. Special proceeding, or actions seeking extraordinary relief such as mandamus, habeas corpus, or prohibition;
  - b. Requests for temporary relief;
  - c. Appeals
  - d. Post Conviction relief matters;
  - e. Contempt of Court proceedings;
  - f. Forfeiture proceedings brought by governmental entities:
  - g. Mortgage foreclosures; and
  - h. Cases that have been previously subjected to an ADR conference, unless otherwise required by Rule 3 or by statute.
- 5. In cases not subject to ADR, the Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes, upon the motion of the court or of any party, may order a case to mediation.
- 6. Motion of a party to be exempt from payment of neutral fees due to indigency should be filed with the Court within ten (10) days after the ADR conference has been concluded.

Please Note: You must comply with the Supreme Court Rules regarding ADR. Failure to do so may affect your case or may result in sanctions.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS 8 <sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT	
COUNTY OF LAURENS	Ś	6 JODICIAL CIRCOIT	
Andrew G. Turner,	)	Case No.: 2016-CP-30-892	
Plaintiff,	)	AMENDED SUMMONS	
Vs.	)	(JURY TRIAL DEMANDED)	
Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office, Laurens County Fire Service, & Lt. Jawarski Shelton, Defendants.	) ) )	LAURENS COUNTRY CLERK OF CHURT	
TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE-N	AMED		믕

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer on the subscriber at their offices at: P. O Box 10411, Greenville, SC 29603 within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint in the time aforesaid, a judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS M. CREECH, JR. LLC

Thomas M. Creech Jr. (SC Bar No. 13797)

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF 124 Edinburgh Court, Suite 109

PO Box 10411 (29603)

Greenville, SC 29607

Telephone: 864-235-4999 Facsimile: 864-235-4991

tmcreech@bellsouth.net

Date: 12 - 1 - 16

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS 8 <sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF LAURENS	)	
Andrew G. Turner,	)	Case No.: 2016-CP-30-892
Plaintiff,	)	AMENDED COMPLAINT
Vs.	)	(JURY TRIAL DEMANDED)
Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens	Ś	
County, Laurens County Sheriff's	)	
Office, Laurens County Fire Service,	)	
& Lt. Jawarski Shelton, individually,	)	공원 등
Defendants.		
		Se v e
COMES NOW THE PLAINTIFF, above	ve-nan	ned, who, requesting a jury trial would show
unto this honorable court:		5 5

#### PARTIES & JURISDICTION

- 1. The plaintiff is a citizen and resident of the State of South Carolina and the County of Spartanburg, and a former Simpsonville firefighter.
- 2. Defendant Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County is being sued in his official capacity as Sheriff of Laurens County, South Carolina and as such has or employs and acts through agents and employees and operates in Laurens County, South Carolina providing law enforcement services in Laurens County, S.C.. Defendant Laurens County Sheriff's Office is a county or local governmental agency or subdivision located and operating in Laurens County, S.C. that provides law enforcement services in Laurens County, S.C.
- 3. Defendant Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County and defendant Laurens County Sheriff's Office employs agents and employees in the state of South Carolina, including Lt. Jawarski Shelton. All acts of defendants Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County and Laurens County Sheriff's Office as described in this lawsuit, and that is relevant thereto, were done by employees and agents of Defendant Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County or as employees or agents of the Laurens County Sheriff's Office and were all done in the state of South Carolina.
- 4. At all times relevant to this lawsuit, the acts or omissions of the defendant Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County and defendant Laurens County Sheriff's Office was performed by agents and employees of defendant Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County and defendant Laurens County Sheriff's Office acting within the course and

scope of their employment or agency with defendant Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County and defendant Laurens County Sheriff's Office.

- 5. Defendant Jawarski Shelton is being sued in his individual capacity for acts he performed under color of state law while employed at the Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County or the Laurens County Sheriff's Office.
- 6. Defendant Laurens County Fire Service is a county or local governmental agency or subdivision located in and operating out of Laurens County, S.C., that operates or manages various fire departments in Laurens County, S.C., including the Durbin Creek Fire Department that provides fire protection and fire services in Laurens County, South Carolina.
- 7. Defendant Laurens County Fire Service employs agents and employees in the State of South Carolina including Kurtis Thackston, Dale Millwood, and Ryan Thorne. All acts of Defendant Laurens County Fire Service as described in this lawsuit and that are relevant thereto were done by employees and agents of the Laurens County Fire Service and were done in the state of South Carolina.
- 8. At all times relevant to this lawsuit, the acts or omissions of the defendant Laurens County Fire Service were performed by agents and employees of defendant Laurens County Fire Service acting within the course and scope of their employment or agency with defendant Laurens County Fire Service.
- 9. The court has jurisdiction over the parties to this lawsuit.
- 10. The court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this lawsuit.

#### **FACTS**

- 11. All allegations in preceding paragraphs 1-10 are hereby re-alleged as if fully set forth here, where consistent.
- 12. At all times relevant herein, the plaintiff owned the real property ('the property") and structures, including an uninhabitable mobile home ("mobile home") thereon located at 1399 Meadowlark Lane, Laurens County, South Carolina.
- 13. At all times relevant herein, the real property and structures including a mobile home thereon located at 1399 Meadowlark Lane, Laurens County, South Carolina were unencumbered by any mortgage, note, and debt, secured or unsecured interest, or lien. The property including the mobile home was uninsured as well.
- 14. On or about November 15, 2014, Andrew Turner went to Durbin Creek Fire Department and spoke with Assistant Chief Dale Millwood about his intention to safely burn the mobile home Mr. Turner owned on the property located at 1399 Meadowlark Lane in Laurens County.

- 15. Later the same day of November 15, 2014, the plaintiff and Assistant Chief Millwood visited the plaintiff's property in order for Assistant Chief Dale Millwood to inspect and understand the plaintiff's request for permission to burn the mobile home on the plaintiff's property.
- 16. While at the property location on November 15, 2014, plaintiff was granted permission from Millwood to burn the mobile home.
- 17. Approximately 10 days later, on November 26, 2014, the plaintiff spoke with Ryan Thorn, also a fire fighter training officer at Durbin Creek Fire department, who informed plaintiff that he could burn the mobile home on the property and to do so the next day, if plaintiff wanted to initiate the burn at that time, preferably in the morning.
- 18. On November 27, 2014, Mr. Turner thereafter prepared to burn the trailer located on the property by among other things building a fire line around the trailer so that the trailer could be burned safely.
- 19. On November 27, 2014, Mr. Turner began the fire at his property specifically to the mobile home at approximately 9:00 a.m.
- 20. Mr. Turner remained at the property at 1399 Meadowlark Lane, Fountain Inn, South Carolina at the scene of the fire to make sure it would not get out of control.
- 21. Mr. Turner video taped and took photographs of the whole scene of the fire at his property at 1399 Meadowlark Lane, Fountain Inn, South Carolina.
- 22. On November 27, 2014, Durbin Creek Fire department officials received a call about the fire on the property and responded to the property while the mobile home was burning. The plaintiff was present when Durbin Creek Fire Department officials arrived on scene while the burn was in progress.
- 23. The Durbin Creek Fire Department managed the fire eventually extinguishing said fire and informed the plaintiff that he could leave the site if he so desired and that everything was under control.
- 24. While managing and extinguishing the fire and after having informed the plaintiff that he could leave the scene if he wished, agents/employees of defendant Laurens County Fire Service –Durbin Creek Fire Department, called defendant Laurens County Sheriff's Office to request an investigation.
- 25. Defendant Laurens County Fire Service agents/employees namely Kurtis Thackston then began investigating the plaintiff in order to cause the plaintiff to be charged with arson.
- 26. Defendant Laurens County Fire Service agents/employees took statements of potential witnesses, took photographs of the fire and thereafter collaborated and assisted with the Laurens County Sheriff's Office in the criminal investigation of the plaintiff.

- 27. After the fire, law enforcement officers with the Laurens County Sheriff's Office were notified of the burn by Laurens County Fire Service Durbin Creek Fire Department officials. Laurens County Sheriff's Office investigator Jawarski Shelton began an investigation into the plaintiff for arson in burning the mobile home on November 27, 2014.
- 28. During the course of defendant Shelton's investigation, it would have been apparent to any reasonable law enforcement officer, including defendant Shelton that the plaintiff did not act with malice in burning the mobile home. Despite having no evidence that the plaintiff acted with malice in burning the mobile home, and therefore could not be liable for the criminal offense of arson, defendant Shelton, with the full knowledge, support, encouragement, assistance, and cooperation of defendant Laurens County Fire Service, obtained a warrant for Mr. Turner's arrest and charged Mr. Turner with Arson in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, a felony, and caused Mr. Turner to be arrested for that offense.
- 29. On December 8, 2014, Mr. Turner was detained and arrested by the Laurens County Sheriff's Office and charged with arson 3<sup>rd</sup> degree for burning the mobile on the property on November 27, 2014, even though there was no probable cause for the plaintiff to be charged or arrested.
- 30. The plaintiff was later found not guilty of the arson charges.
- 31. At all times relevant to this lawsuit, plaintiff never acted with malice, ill will, or had any criminal intent to commit the crime of arson and in fact had consent or permission to burn the mobile home on his property.
- 32. As a result of defendants' actions, plaintiff was humiliated, embarrassed, forced to hire an attorney and incur legal expenses and other expenses, found it difficult to obtain employment while the charges were pending and suffered other harms, losses, and damages under the law.

## FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION False Arrest against Defendants Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and Laurens County Fire Service

- 33. All allegations in the preceding paragraphs are hereby re-alleged as if fully set forth here, where consistent.
- 34. Defendants Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and Laurens County Fire Service falsely arrested plaintiff or caused plaintiff to be falsely arrested without probable cause.
- 35. Defendants Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and Laurens County Fire Service false arrest of plaintiff was intentional.

- 36. Defendants Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and Defendant Laurens County Fire Service false arrest of plaintiff was unlawful.
- 37. As a direct and proximate cause or result of defendants' Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and Laurens County Fire Service false arrest of plaintiff, plaintiff was harmed and suffered damages.
- 38. Plaintiff would therefore request that an amount of actual and punitive damages as determined by the jury be entered by the court in favor of the plaintiff and against the defendants Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office, and Laurens County Fire Service on this cause of action.

#### FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

# Negligence/Gross Negligence/Recklessnes/Wantoness against Defendants Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office, and Laurens County Fire Service

- 39. All allegations in the preceding paragraphs are hereby re-alleged as if fully set forth here, where consistent.
- 40. Defendants Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and Laurens County Fire Service were negligent, grossly negligent, reckless, willful, and wanton in one or more of the following particulars:
  - a. in failing to conduct an adequate and reasonable investigation before having the plaintiff charged with arson 3<sup>rd</sup> degree and arrested;
  - b. in failing to train and supervise its employees;
  - c. in failing to apply due care in the situation;
  - d. in failing to follow its policies;
  - f. in failing to adopt policies that would have prevented the plaintiff's detention, arrest
  - g. in other ways that may be ascertained during the discovery phase of this lawsuit;
- 41. As a direct and proximate result of defendants Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and Laurens County Fire Service, negligence, gross negligence, willfulness, recklessness, and wantonness, plaintiff was harmed and damaged.
- 42. Plaintiff would therefore request that an amount of actual and punitive damages as determined by the jury be entered by the court in favor of the plaintiff and against the

defendants Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and Laurens County Fire Service, on this cause of action.

## FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION False Imprisonment against Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and Laurens County Fire Service

- 43. All allegations in the preceding paragraphs are hereby re-alleged as if fully set forth here, where consistent.
- 44. Defendants Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and Laurens County Fire Service unlawfully restrained or caused the plaintiff to be unlawfully restrained and falsely imprisoned.
- 45. Defendants Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and Laurens County Fire Service unlawful restraint of plaintiff or causing plaintiff to be unlawfully restrained was intentional.
- 46. Defendants Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and Laurens County Fire Service restraint or causing plaintiff to be restrained was unlawful.
- 47. As a direct and proximate cause or result of defendants' Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and Laurens County Fire Service false imprisonment of plaintiff, plaintiff suffered harms and damages including humiliation, emotional distress, embarrassment, and other harms and losses.
- 48. Plaintiff would therefore request that an amount of actual and punitive damages as determined by the jury be entered by the court in favor of the plaintiff and against the defendant Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office, and Laurens County Fire Service on this cause of action.

# FOR A FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION Malicious Prosecution against Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office & Laurens County Fire Service

- 49. All allegations in preceding paragraphs are hereby re-alleged as if fully set forth here, where consistent.
- 50. On behalf of or at the instance of, the defendants Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and Laurens County Fire Service, through its agents and employees, instituted or caused to be instituted original judicial proceedings by having plaintiff charged with and arrested for the crime of arson when there was no probable cause that the plaintiff had committed the crime of arson.
- 51. The arson charge was terminated in favor of the plaintiff.

- 52. Defendants Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and Laurens County Fire Service acted with malice in instituting or causing to be instituted the arson charges against the plaintiff.
- 53. There was no probable cause to charge, or believe, that plaintiff acted with malice or committed the crime of arson.
- 54. As a direct and proximate cause or result of defendants' Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and Laurens County Fire Service prosecution of plaintiff without probable cause, plaintiff was harmed and suffered damages.
- 55. Plaintiff would therefore request that an amount of actual and punitive damages as determined by the jury be entered by the court in favor of the plaintiff and against the defendants Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and Laurens County Fire Service on this cause of action.

### FOR A FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION 42 U.S.C. §1983-Violation of Civil Rights 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Against Defendant Shelton

- 56. All allegations in preceding paragraphs are hereby re-alleged as if fully set forth here, where consistent.
- 57. At all times that individual defendant Jawarski Shelton investigated and obtained an arrest warrant for the plaintiff and caused the plaintiff to be arrested, Jawarski Shelton was employed by Ricky Chastain Sheriff of Laurens County or the Laurens County Sheriff's Office and acting under color of state law and pursuant to law enforcement duties.
- 58. While acting under color of state law, defendant Shelton obtained an arrest warrant without probable cause for the plaintiff and thereafter caused the plaintiff to be arrested without probable cause thereby depriving the plaintiff of his constitutional right under the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment of the United States Constitution to be free from an unconstitutional arrest and seizure of his person in violation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
- 59. As a direct and proximate cause of defendant Shelton's violating the plaintiff's constitutional rights under the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment by causing an illegal/unconstitutional arrest, the plaintiff has been harmed and suffered damages.
- 60. Plaintiff would therefore request that an amount of actual and punitive damages, as determined by the jury be entered by the court in favor of the plaintiff and against the defendant Jaworski Shelton on this cause of action. Plaintiff also requests that the court award the plaintiff an amount of reasonable attorney fees as well.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Andrew Turner has suffered losses, emotional distress, and damages and is informed and would request that the court enter judgment in his favor and against the above listed Defendants for actual, special, and punitive damages, prejudgment interest, attorneys fees, and such other further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS M. CREECH, JR. LLC

Thomas M. Creech Jr. (SC Bar No. 13797)

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF 124 Edinburgh Court, Suite 109

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Date: 17-1-16

The Plaintiff Demands a Jury Trial

Thomas M. Creech, Jr. Attorney for Plaintiff

12-1-16

Date